

Tom Horne  
Superintendent

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## ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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EMBARGOED RELEASE FOR WEDNESDAY AUGUST 6, 2008:

### **HORNE RELEASES 2008 AIMS SCORES: KEEPING STUDENTS AND SCHOOLS ACCOUNTABLE IS IMPORTANT FOR OVERALL ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENT**

PHOENIX (Wednesday, August 6, 2008) -- Arizona Schools Chief Tom Horne today released 2008 AIMS scores and states that students overall are showing continuous improvement in test scores.

“AIMS testing in all grades in reading, writing and math give teachers, students and parents a gauge as to how well their students are performing on the Arizona standards. Keeping students and schools accountable is vital for the overall academic achievement of Arizona students,” stated Horne.

Scores in reading and math showed the most improvement, where writing has shown overall stability. Writing scores tend to fluctuate, since scoring of that portion of the AIMS test is a more subjective process.

Horne added: “Emphasis on rigor and accountability is the only way to combat the forces of mediocrity. Arizona students are increasing in proficiency rates and are performing above the national average in the *TerraNova* (the nationally normed test that all Arizona students take).”

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